

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1967

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 9482

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, GR, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8951

1. THE REQUEST OF GREECE'S GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGT) TO AFFILIATE WITH THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) IS ON THE AGENDA OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN GENEVA ON OCTOBER 1.

2. OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSION WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON THE REPORT MADE BY MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL TRADE UNION MISSION TO GREECE (REFTEL), WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDED SVEN ERIC STERNER, ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ETUC. STERNER AND OTHERS IN THE BRUSSELS UNION COMMUNITY HAVE MIXED
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FEELINGS ABOUT THE ADHESION OF THE GREEK CGT TO THE ETUC,

PARTLY BECAUSE THEY FEEL IT IS TOO SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

3. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA INCLUDES AN ITEM CALLED "OTHER APPLICATIONS," WHICH IS CODE FOR THE APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION FROM ANOTHER CGT, THE CGT OF FRANCE. IT IS EXPECTED HERE THAT THIS APPLICATION WILL BE NEITHER ACCEPTED NOR REJECTED, MERELY DISCUSSED FURTHER. MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY, HAS FORMULATED A SHORT SERIES OF "QUESTIONS" (REALLY PROBLEMS) THAT THE FRENCH CGT AFFILIATION WOULD POSE. IF THESE QUESTIONS ARE ACCEPTED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CGT, THEY COULD BE READ AS A POLITE WAY OF TELLING THE CGT IT WAS NOT WANTED.

4. ALSO ON THE ETUC AGENDA WILL BE "RESULTS OF TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE," A REPORT ON THE EC CONFERENCE OF LABOR, BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES HELD IN LUXEMBOURG IN JUNE. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS HOPEFUL OF HAVING A SIMILAR CONFERENCE IN LONDON IN EARLY 1977, DURING THE SIX-MONTH BRITISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EC, BUT SO FAR THE ETUC SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN RESERVED TOWARD THE IDEA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE STILL IS MUCH FOLLOW-UP WORK TO BE DONE FROM THE LAST TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE.

5. THESE AND OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS WILL BE AIRED IN A PRELIMINARY WAY ON SEPTEMBER 30 AT A MEETING OF THE ETUC'S "FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES" COMMITTEE, MADE UP OF THE ETUC'S TOP OFFICERS, -- PRESIDENT, SIX VICE PRESIDENTS, AND THE GENERAL SECRETARY. THIS GROUP, ESTABLISHED AT THE RECENT ETUC CONGRESS, WILL MEET BIMONTHLY PRIOR TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND MAY BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT POLICY BODY IN THE ETUC.

6. ANOTHER LABOR MEETING IN GENEVA ON SEPTEMBER 30 WILL BE THAT OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, CHAIRED BY GUNAR NILSSON OF SWEDEN, AND MADE UP OF ETUC LEADERS FROM SWEDEN, NORWAY, FINLAND, DENMARK, AND ICELAND. ACCORDING TO STERNER, THIS GROUP HAS MET INFORMALLY BEFORE, BUT HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN SET UP ON A FORMAL BASIS. HINTON

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